

IN VERSE AND PROSE.

The Children Tell St. Nicholas of Their Hopes and Expectations.

ORDERS ON HIS MOUNTAIN WORKSHOP Letters from Richmond Found in Santa Claus's Letter Box.

GREAT TALENT IN COMPOSITION The Old Man Ready to Fulfil the Wishes

of His Little Friends. HE WILL FOLLOW THE SAND MAN.

To Drive His Sleigh Over the Roofs of Houses-Great Demand for Billy Goats and Other Articles Too Large for Stockings-Many Requests.

Christmas without the children would be but a commonplace day, indeed, and would lose all of the brightness and merriment with which the glad season is associated. Without the child, Christmas would be reached on the calendar ere the older heads had scarcely given a thought to its approach, and would pass away quite as any other day, with the exception of the religious services held in commemoration of the Saviour's birth. The child is the true herald of this anniversary. With the advent of December he begins slowly to work himself into a state of feverish excitement, which grows in intensity as the long-looked-for day approaches, and only finds relief when the tired head nestles upon the pillow on has men in it, and a driver and horses to the night of the 25th, and sleep, troubled it, and I want to give you some of my only with the visions of the eventful money to buy you a neck tie. You can holiday, steals over the boy and holds him fast in its embrace.

What here in juvenile book lore can compare with the jovial saint the children love so dearly, and in whom their faith is so staunch? The wonderful Dear Santa Claus: of Guilliver, and the lonely life of Robin-chain and a harp and a drum. That's son Crusoe, have all served to win the son Crusoe, have all served to win the son Crusoe, have all served to win the boy's admiration for those mythical heroes, but the mere mention of the name Dear Santa Claus: heroes, but the mere mention of the name of Santa Claus is sufficient to dim the fame of those adventurers, and call to mind the swift reindeer of Saint Nicholas and the well-packed sleigh, and as he dreams of the fanciful picture, he almost dreams of the fanciful picture, he almost and I want a lock bracelet. I would like

upon the pure white snow.

Santa Claus reigns supreme in the heart of the child. He has read of the herces of his story books, and to him they are creatures of a past age, rather inspiring awe than otherwise, but Santa Claus is awe than otherwise, but Santa Claus is
a living reality, with whom he may hold
communication, and who annually visits
communication, and who annually visits
him in the dead of night, leaving behind
him in the dead of night, leaving behind him in the dead of night, leaving behind him in the dead of night, leaving behind him so lavish a portion of his rich store. What wonder, then, that the confiding trust of the child should be given so implicitly to the merry, whole-souled old fellow, who, far away in his Greenland home, in the land of perpetual snow, labors the year 'round for his little friends in every part of the Christian

The Dispatch, according to its usual custom, at this season, prints the letters of the children to their far-away friend, and the young folks may rest assured that the old fellow will see their notes and the young folks may rest assured that the old fellow will see their notes—many of them this year expressed in verse—and will ano doubt give careful consideration to their wishes, just as he has done from time immemorial.

Dear Santy Claus:

I an a little girl ten years old. I go to bed soon, and go to sleep. My mother, too, and she says that if I be good that you will bring me somethings nice.

has done from time immemorial. Very many letters came too late for in-sertion in this edition of the Dispatch, but the little authors may rest assured that they have been duly forwarded to Santa Claus, who never fails to respond to the wishes of all good children.

Dear Santy Claus:

I want you to bring me a bicycle, a lock-bracetle, a doll-baby, sewing machine, and nuts, candles, fruit of all kind, and pring them

and peperacker all kind; and bring them to my address, 216 N. 21 St.
Your little friend,
NORVELL EUBANK.

I want you to bring me a geography, reading-book, wagon, train, ten babywaker, ten poperacker, five romancandle, two skyrockets, candies of all kind, nuts of all kind, fruits of all kind.

Your Own boy Dear Santy Claus:

Your Oun boy, BEAUFORT EUBANK.

Dear Saunta Cause: Please bring me a gun, a pound of shot, bicycle, and some fireworks; that is il. I live at No. 218 21st street. Your little boy, WILLIE EUBANK.

My dear Santa Cluas: I want a bureau and bed and washstand, and some raisin and some candy, and a apple an a orange. Please don't forget to come. I live on Main street, number 1022. I will go to bed at 7 o'clock, and shut my eyes tight.

CARRIE MIDYETTE.

Dear Santa Clause:

I want you to bring me a stove and a tea set and a baby and a table, and a pair of kid gloves. Your little friend,
ALICE G. NEISZ.
No. 49 S. Short St. Dear Santa Clause

Dear Santa Clause:
Please give me a large doll, a nice little stove, and some blocks to play with;
I wrote this with the help of my mamma.
LITTLE MINNIE ENDERS.

Dear Santa Clause:

Please bring me a large express wagon and a billigoat, and several games.
WILLIE ENDERS.

Dear Santa Clause:

LYNWOOD BRYANT. 915 west Grast.

Dear Santa Claus: Pleas bring me a pony and dog-cart; also, a watch, neck-lace, and puppy-dog, and I will be your very good little

CARRIE M. KAUFMANN. giri, C Dec. 3, 1897. Dear Santa Claws:

I want you to bring me a large Doll, A Pair of kid gloves. A bracelet, A horn, Some handkerchiefs, A ring, A sleigh, A Christmas-tree, A box of candy, A penclebox, Some paper Dolls.
NANNIE HERNDON. 1103 West Cary St.

> Richmond, Va., 1897. Dec. 2d.

Dear Santa Claus: I want a soldier suit and some pop-crackers and torpeters and baby-wakers and a wagon. I hope you will be kind to me and bring me all I ask for. From your little boy, ARTHUR JENNINGS.

Dear Santy Claus: I am a little girl 4 years old, and I want you to bring me some things nice. I want a doll and tea-set and horn and stone and a lot of pretty things. I won't ask much; I no it is hord times now.

FITHEL LORNCE.

Dear Santa Claus:

Dear Santa Claus:

I want a pair of gloves, a ring.

CONWAY MUNDY, 1002 E. Broad st. Richmond, Va., Dec. 12, 1897. As Xmas is so near, we thought we had better send our letter in time, as we won't be very hard on you, so my little Brother and I only want a Police

Patrol Wagon together, and a Horn, Pop-crackers, and some Sweets. Do not for-get us, please, we will be good children and go to bed early. Good-bye. Your two little boys. WILLIE AND BERNARD GRIGG,

that you wanted little children to write o you, so I will ask you to bring me a

horn, a picture book, and some little poperackers, and good things, and a rattle

for our little baby brother. Your little friend,

Dear Santa Clause:

I wish you would bring me a game, a watch, a knife, a box of candy, and a tool box. Now I wish you would please bring them to me, and don't forget to come. I live at number 1306 W. Cary St., Richmond, Va.

OLIJE HANKINS.

OLLIE HANKINS.

I want you to bring me a nice watch, a violin, Babywakers, poperackers, a horn, a box of torpeters, fireworks, and don't forget the candy and nuts. Dear Sandy Claus:

Your little friend FRANK S. FOSTER.

Richmond, Va., West-End School. Dear Santa Claus: I want a goat and harness, and a wagon

and a monkey that will run up a string, and a crismass tree. JOHN GARNETT. 612 north 10th St.,

Richmond, Dec. 13, 1897. My dear Santa Claus:
You said in the paper yesterday that
the little children must write and tell
you what they want you to bring them at
Christmas, so I will write you a letter
for me and Charlie. We both want you
to bring us some "Devil chasers" and a
drum, and that new Spress wagon that
I saw up on Broad street, and we want My dear Santa Claus; I saw up on Broad street, and we want one of those little wooden houses with little windows all round, and that has animals in it, and I want a umlibus that

bring us anything you please.

I am your little friends,
RANDOLPH AND CHARLIE B. TABB, and we live 612 north 10th St.

1212 Floyd Avenue.

want a bicycle and a watch and

hears the musical tinkling of the bells, to have a pair of shoes, and plese don't forget my little sister and my brother forget my little sister and my brother that can't walk. If I am asking two much, I am sorry. I am your girl, MINNIE A. MURRAY.

I thought I would write yu a few lines,

Your little girl.

MARY F. BUTLER.

312 South Laurel St. Richmond, Va., Dec. 2, 1897.

Dear Santa Claus: I want son firecrackers and a chain to ware with my wach. That is all I want now. Don't forget me. I live on Laurel now. Don't lorget in.
St. Good-by, Your boy,
LEE MILLER.

you will bring me somethings nice. I want a pair of gloves and a dress and muff and fur and Clook and large dool, and some candy, nuts, apples, a some.
LIZZIE M'CLELAND.

of shoes. If this is two much, just bring what you like. I am your little girl,
ANNIE MURAY,

Richmond, Va.

me a lock bracelet and a pair of kid gloves and a kick-up doll and a new dress 207 S. Pine St. and a Christmas-Tree. I am 9 years old. Good-bye, dear Santa Clause. Christmas is nearly here, and I would like for you to bring me something nice. I will be thankful for anything that you MINNIE WITTEL, No. 314 S. Laurel St., Richmond, Va.

Dear Santa Claus:

Dear Santa Claus:

Dear Santa Claus:

Please send me a Bycycle, and it will be thankfully received.

Yours respectively, HEBERT GILMAN.

Christmas-tree full of nice things, and a

box of handkerchief, a doll which can go to sleep, a carriage, and a set of fur-nishture, and a box of candy for my

teacher. Good-by, my dear Santa Claus.

From your friend, CLARA BENTEL,

bring me a ring, and pleas bring me a

bracelet; and I would like to have a pair

Will you please be so kind as to bring

Richmond, Va., Dec. 2, 1897.

106 So. Cherry St.

800 West Main St., Richmond.

Dear Santa Claus:

Please bring me an ice-wagon, magic lantern, book, game, and a set of tools. Yours truly, WILLIAM PORTERFIELD. Dear Santa Slause:

As Christmas is so near, I will write As Christmas is so near, I will write you a letter and let you know wot I want. I want a beautiful large doil and a large horn and a large Christmas-tree and a large boll and a plenty candy and a large boll and a plenty candy and that is nuts, and have a good time. And that is all. Good-by. To dear old Santa Claus. Now, please do not forget the No., 820

AGNES MARY POHLIG. Richmond, Va., 109 Reservoir St. December 3, 1897.

Dear Santa Claus:

I though I would wright you a letter,
and let you know what I want. A Christmas-tree, with nice things on it. Please
bring it. From your little girl
JESSIE TARRY.

Elk Hill, Goochland County, Va.

Dear Santa Clause:

I am a little boy, 7 years old. I have a sister 4 years, and a little baby brother 15 months. Please don't forget us this Christmas. Bring us all you can. Sister Christmas a nice doll baby, and I will i and I now want you to bring me a new little baby brother and tell you what we wanted most. Well I have kept my doll you sent me last Xmass, and I will i and I now want you to bring me a new little baby brother in the county of the count Elk Hill, Goochland County, Va.

be glad of anything you wish to give.
The batby's name is Jack, and he will
like a nice rubber toy. I am so anxious
for Christmas to come I wish for you every night, Hoping you will kindly member me, I am, a good boy and dady pet. GOODWIN RANSON.

MANANTH WHITE THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF

I wish you would bring me a wooden gin and a rubber ball and a box of candy. EDWARD M'CARTHY. Please bring me a doll-baby and a trunk and a doll carriage, and pleas let the doll be one that can go to sleep, and Dear Santa Claus:

Please send a Bicycle and a wagon & goat and harness. From your little boy, OWEN LEWS, 1423 Floyd Ave., Richmond, Va.

Dear Old Santa: We are sure You are very good; So we send you our love, As all children should,

We want such a lot of things We can hardly tell
What we'd like you most to bring.
But you know full well.

So we leave it all to you, As we've done before, And we know you'll bring us all-All we want-and more.

JAMES IREDELL, M'REE, Jr., FERGUS M'REE.

Dear Santa: Send us what we want, And we will be as good As little children who have all That they can wish for should. What do we want? Well, let us see;

It's hard to specify; We couldn't tell you half the things, Though we should try and try. Our biggest stocking's very small,

Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me a tree and firecrackers

and a few toys.

T. NOLTE BRENNAN.

Dear Santa Clause:
Please bring me a lot of candles and a doll baby, and don't forget my nurse, Fannie. Bring her a nice box dominoes, and I will thank you very much.

LITTLE IRMA JONES. No. 927 W. Clay St.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 14, 1897.

suit for her and another pair of shoes. Also, a gossimer and pr rubbers to keep me dry from rain, as I am now going to school. Thanking you, oh, ever so many times for your many rememberances, will say good night.

MILDRED JONES.

MARIAN MA

all.

927 W. Clay st.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl 9 years old, and I want you to bring me a Doll-Baby, Lock Bracelet, Tea Set, and a gold ring, now, don't forget to come, Santa Claus. My No. is No. 1121 Chaffin street.

From your little girl, NORA JENNINGS.

Please bring me a lunch box and a pair of kid gloves, and a half dozen handker-chifes. Now, please don't forget me, and bring them to me. I live no. 1105 W. Cary street, Richmond, Va., and my name is a property of the prop FLORENCE HERNDON.

Dear Santa Claus: i now take my pencil in hand to let you here from me. bring me a doll-baby, a carriag, and a book, a pencil and a slate, and all the pritty thing, don't for get my brother, please bring me a box of games, from LOTTIE LUESE WADE,

No. 2706 clay st., Richmond, Va.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 45, 1897. Dear Santa Clause:
i send yer this to tell you to Bring me
A wagon And A Drum And A lot off
pretty things, don't forget my sister and
my Brother, i will go to Bed soon, so

good by. From WILLIE JEFFERSON REID, 2706 Clay 81 Dear Santa Claus: I want you to bring me a Doll's Car-

riage for my old one is broken; and if you can spair it, pleas bring me a doll with it, And please, Santa, bring my little Sister, May Bell, a carriag, two, if you don't she will breake mine, don't forget to bring two. HAZLE CHAMBERLAINE.

Dear Santa Clause: I am a good little boy, and would like to have a lot of nice things for Christmas. I would like a wagon, a big tin horn, a nice picture-book. please bring my little sister a pair of swinging horses, doll baby, and dishes & please bring is some Candy & nuts. Your friend,

EDDIE FLETCHER,

Dear Santa Clause:
Please bring me a gold or a sliver bracelet and a gosmer, and a Christmus tree, some cakes and candy, and amonds & nuts. Good-by, dear old Santy, your loving,

CARRIE HERBIG.

Dear Santa Claus: I am a little Girl of 10 years old, and I

want you to bring me a Lock Bracelet, Gold ring, and a nigro Doll, and Iron stove, and they are all mine. Oh! and the largest nigro toe you con find, now don't forget to come, my no. is No. 1121 Chaffin St., and Don't burn your toes when you come down the chimney.

come down the chimney. From your little girl, EVA JENNINGS.

Dear Santa Claus: Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little boy of 4 years old, and I want you to bring me a express-wagon, all lined with gold, Billie Goat, Engine, Range, Whip, Horn, and some candles and nuts. now, don't forget to come. my no. is No. 1121 Chaffin St.

From your little hoy,
GEO, JENNINGS.

Dear Santa Claws: Dear Santa Claws:

I am a little boy 3½ years old. I want you to bring me a bicycle, and a pack of poperackers, a horn, and some candy. Please bring Minerva (our colored girl) a bicycle, too, and my little brother, Harold, something pretty. I am going to be a good boy, and go to bed real soon. Please come Santa Claus; don't forget. Please come, Santa Claus; don't forget.

Dear Santa Claus: Dear Santa Claus:
Christmas will soon be here, and I want you to bring me a lot of nice things. Please bring me a velocipede and some poperackers, and a horn and a stocking full of candy. Don't forget my baby brother; bring him a bail or anything nice that you have for babies. I am going on 6 years old, and am a good boy. Don't forget the place.

Don't forget the place. ARCHIE CAVEDO.

FRANK CAVEDO.

Dear Santa Claws: I would like for you to bring me a few things, pleas bring me a air-rifle and a plenty of fireworks. From your friend, CHARLIE ARMSTRONG.

Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me some "Nigger Toes," walnuts, candy, and a doll. Grandma says she is going to give me a great, big doll, Aunt Mamie an infant doil, and Mother a lock bracelet. Bring me any-

thing you choose. If you bring me all that I will try and be a good girl. Your little girl, NANNIE P. VADEN, Manchester.

Dear Santa Clause:

I am just 2 years old, so Miss Florence
will write what I say. Please bring me
some ice-eream and a doll-baby, candy,
cakes, and a carriage, a monkey and some
atmonds and Irish-potato, and please,
Santa Clause, bring Nannie a bushel of
cole. Your loving little,

MAMIE HERBIG. Dear Santa Clause:

Dec. 16, 1897,

you to bring me a gun, a wagon, a writing desk, a tooli box, and some fireworks, and other things suitable for a boy 3 years old. I have a sweet little Baby 8 years old. I have a sweet little Baby Brother, named Waverly. I want you to bring him some nice things. He wants a wagon, too. Please don't forget where we live. Our number is 809 Semmes St., Manchester Va. Your little friend, HARRY CANADA.

Dear Santa Clause: Dear Santa Clause:
Please bring me a doll and a carriage,
a cooking stove, some candy, cakes, and
nuts, I like oranges, too.
I like little washboards and tubs, but

Papa says I must not ask for too much that is not nice. Good bye Santa Clause. I hope you

will have a good time Christmas ESTELLE HERBIG. Dear Santa Clause: Please bring me a fireman's set-a hook and ladder engine and whose on a wagon.

And a paint-box with a book to show

you how to paint. I havent any Mama, but Miss Florence who takes care of us when Papa is away at work, says I am always working. Your boy-WILLIE HERBIG.

1009 west Grace street, Richmond, Va.

Dear Santa Claws:

I hope you will bring me a good book, and a box of marbles, and a box of writing paper, and any thing else that you want to bring me. MORRIS JACOBUS. Dear Santa Clause: My name is Amorette Allen, and I am nearly five years old, please Santa Clause bring me a doll that can go to sleep and

wake up, with brown eyes like my sister, and a big carriage to roll her out in, and a Christmas tree, with a horn on it, and a set of dishes, and I would like a boy doll, if you can, to be the papa. I will try to be a good girl and not worry my sick Mamma, please bring me a primmer to learn my A. B. C. Good by. I will be asleep when you come. Your little girl AMORETTA ALLEN.

Dear Santa Claus: Please be so kind as to bring me a tool box, a billy goat, and twenty packs of pop-crackers, and a toy horse. of pop-crackers, and a toy horse. I hope I am not asking too much of you. Now, good-bye, Santa Claus, I am going to be a good boy. Hoping to hear from you real soon. I will now close.

ALBERT DAVIS, 223 south Pine street.

Richmond, Va., December 14, 1897.

Dear Santa Claus: I am a little boy 9 years old, papa and mama live in the country, but I live with my grand mama. Please bring me a Reefer and a gossmer, and a bicycle, and rifle, so I can go hunting with my papa, and lots of fireworks. Please bring my sister and little brother lots of pretty I am your good

ERNEST SYLVESTER MEYER,

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl 5 years old. Please,
Dear Santa, send me a Big Baby Baby
Carriage, Table Set of Dishes, Lock
Bracelet, Over Shoes, and a lot of Good
things, and, oh, Santa, a Negro Baby,
Please bring my little Brother, Eugle,
Something Nice, and I will be a Good little Girl. Good bye, Dear Santa. I hope
you will have a merry Christmas. Dear Santa Claus: you will have a merry Christmas.
RUBY PEAY,

714 north Twenty-third street.

Richmond, Va., December 12, 1897. Dear Santa Claus:

I hope you are good enough to bring me a few things. I don't want very many. I want more, but it isn't any use of telling you, because I know I couldn't get them. I hope you will bring me a story book, a pair of kid gloves, some fireworks, and I don't want a doll, but I want my doll dressed over in pink I want a rocking chair, a game, a table and a lock bracelet, and a hat for my doll, and a sleigh. I am 10 years old and mamma says that I have snough of playthings. This is all I have to say. From your little friend who loves you.

FANNIE FARMER.

Richmond, Va., December 13, 1897. Dear Santa Claus: I have been a good little girl this year. I have been a good little giri this year. Please bring me a set of dishes, because sister has broke most of my dishes you brought me last Christmas, and I want you to bring me a doll baby with a long dress on, a tricycle, and some candy and nuts. You can bring me anything else you choose, but don't forget little sister; she talks about you so much. She wants a doll baby and a doll baby carriage, and a little wagon. When you come we will be asleep, but you will be welcome.

LOUISE AND CELESTE JOHNS.

My Dear Sante Clause: I am a little boy 7 years old. I would like you ever so mutch if you would bring me a little double-barrell shotgun, so can go hunting with papa. Bring me gane-bag, too, and please bring my litt brother Johnnie a nice wagon, a tin hora and a picture-book, and some candy and nuts. Your little friend.

FREDDIE FLETCHER Dear Santa Clase:

I drop you this to tell you to bing me a wagon and a drum and all the pretty thing you can get. Plsu don't forget my sister and little brother. I will go to bed soon. So good-by. From

ANDREW REID, Jr. Dear Santa Clawse: Please bring me a gold and a silvet bracelet and a doll-baby and a Christtree and a cooking-stove and some cakes, candy, and some nuts. Good-by, dear old

Santy. Your loving SOPHIE HERBIG.

Dear Old Santa Claus: I want a white muff, And a nice little tricycle, For me this is enough; But my brother wants a bicycle.
I'll be waiting at the door
On Christmas morn at day;
O, do not let your gifts be poor.

When passing down my way.
Your little friend.
LILIAN HOLMES WELLS.
P. S.-Please send Bernard a pair of skates, No. 8.

Dear St. Claus:

I saw in the Dispatch where you requested all the little children to write and tell you what they wanted, I want you would bring me what I ask for. Is Dear Sandy Claws: